

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 00120 171441Z

45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 PC-05 AID-05 IO-10 EB-07 EUR-12 OMB-01

/106 W

----- 069204

P R 171402Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7282

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0120

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TD US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS SUGGESTS POSSIBLE US MILITARY  
INTERVENTION IN CARIBBEAN IN 1975

1. TRINIDAD GUARDIAN JAN 17 CARRIES FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW WITH  
PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS BY CORRESPONDENT JOHN BABB IN WHICH  
WILLIAMS STATED THAT HE "FEARS THE WORST" REGARDING THE THREAT OF  
WAR IN THE CARIBBEAN. INTERVIEW WAS GRANTED JANUARY 14 IMMEDIATELY  
PRIOR TO WILLIAMS' DEPARTURE FOR EXTENDED ASIAN TRIP.

2. FOLLOWING ARE SELECTED QUOTES FROM THE INTERVIEW:

BABB: MR. PRIME MINISTER, AS RECENT AS YOUR ADDRESS TO THE OIL  
CONFERENCE AT CHAGUARAMAS YOU HAVE SPOKEN OF THE THREAT OF WAR AND  
ITS POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE OURS. WOULD YOU CARE  
TO ELABORATE ANY MORE ON THIS?

WILLIAMS: AS I TOLD YOU THERE, IT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU SHOULD BEAR  
IN MIND. AND AS I SPOKE YESTERDAY -- AFTER I LEFT THE (OIL)  
CONFERENCE YESTERDAY TO GO AND GET A REPORT FROM ONE OF OUR  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT O 00120 171441Z

MISSIONS WHICH STATED THAT THEY HAD JUST BEEN READING ABOUT THE

REPORT OF A SECRET COMMITTEE APPOINTED SOME TIME AGO IN THE UNITED STATES -- THAT NOW THE REPORT IS ALLEGED TO BE IN THE HANDS OF A TOP PRESS MAN IN THE UNITED STATES; AND THE REPORT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE MANY INTERVENTIONS -- MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND EVEN IN LATIN AMERICA IN 1975. I FOUND THAT AS I LEFT THE CONFERENCE. THE QUESTION ABOUT THE WAR IS NOT ONLY THE SUPPLY OF OIL; IT IS A QUESTION OF -- YOU SEE, IT IS A QUESTION OF -- I'M NOT GLOATING OVER IT, I'M JUST STATING THIS AS THE FACT OF LIFE HERE NOW -- YOU HAVE A PROTEST NOW AGAINST THE MAJORITY THAT THE THIRD WORLD HAVE IN THE UN. .... I HOPE FOR THE BEST BUT I'M AFRAID MR. BABB. I FEAR THE WORST.

3. BABB HAS REPUTATION OF TAPE RECORDING HIS INTERVIEWS WITH WILLIAMS AND TRANSCRIBING EXACTLY FROM THE TAPE. IN FACT HE IS CRITICIZED BY OTHER JOURNALISTS AS FUNCTIONING SIMPLY AS A STENOGRAPHER IN THE INTERVIEWS AND NOT A JOURNALIST. NEVERTHELESS, THE PRIME MINISTER OBVIOUSLY WANTS IT THAT WAY AND ONLY BABB IS ABLE TO GET PRIVATE INTERVIEWS WITH HIM. ACCURACY OF ABOVE QUOTES IS THEREFORE PROBABLY WITHOUT QUESTION. EVEN THE TOPIC COULD HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE PM.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS SECOND OCCASION RECENTLY IN WHICH WILLIAMS HAS PUBLICLY TRIED TO RAISE SPECTER OF USG INTERFERENCE. EARLIER OCCASION WAS THINLY VEILED ACCUSATION IN PARLIAMENT THAT THE CIA HAD SOMEHOW SUBVERTED THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION TO PRODUCE A DRAFT CONSTITUTION INCORPORATING THE PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. THE HIGH PRESTIGE OF COMMISSION MEMBERS LED TO WIDE REJECTION AND CRITICISM OF THAT CHARGE.  
MILLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, INTERVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTO00120  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750018-1081  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750142/aaaabkrr.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <25 Nov 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS SUGGESTS POSSIBLE US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CARIBBEAN IN 1975  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TD, US, XL, GUARDIAN, (WILLIAMS, ERIC), (BABB, JOHN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006